

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-38 (Canceled)

39. (New) A method of removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate obstruction removing element, the element being naturally biased toward an expanded shape, the expanded shape forming a plurality of coils;

positioning the element in a collapsed position, wherein at least one strand also extends along the elongate obstruction removing element;

advancing the element into an obstruction while holding the element in the collapsed configuration;

releasing the element so that the element naturally expands toward the expanded shape, wherein the at least one strand extends between the plurality of coils;

engaging an obstruction with the element; and

removing the element thereby removing the obstruction.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the element having a free end.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the free end being at the distal most part of the element.

42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the engaging step is carried out by pulling the element proximally to engage and dislodge the obstruction.

43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with a plurality of strands coupled to the element; and

the expanding step is carried out with the plurality of strands extending between the plurality of coils.

44. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the strand being coupled to the element at a proximal location and a distal location, the proximal and distal locations being located at proximal and distal ends of the plurality of coils.

45. (New) A device for removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, comprising:

an elongate obstruction removing element, the element being naturally biased toward an expanded shape, the expanded shape forming a plurality of coils; and

wherein at least one strand also extends along the elongate obstruction removing element in the collapsed position, the element being movable to the expanded position with the at least one strand extending between the coils.

46. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein:

the element has a free end and extends in a substantially linear condition to the free end when in the collapsed configuration within the catheter.

47. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein:

the free end of the element is at the distal most part of the element.

48. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein:

the engaging step is carried out by pulling the element proximally to engage and dislodge the obstruction.

49. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein:

a plurality of strands extends between the plurality of coils.

50. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein:

the strand is coupled to the element at a proximal location and a distal location, the proximal and distal locations being located adjacent proximal and distal ends of the plurality of coils.